

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The use of psychiatric drugs in our nation's  
3 schools has more than doubled in the first half of the last  
4 decade and continues to escalate; and

5 WHEREAS, Production of these drugs has increased by more  
6 than 700% since 1990; and

7 WHEREAS, The number of schoolchildren taking these drugs  
8 is approaching the 4 million mark; and

9 WHEREAS, Recent media stories have brought increased  
10 scrutiny to this uniquely American large-scale use of  
11 psychotropic drugs in our schools; and

12 WHEREAS, Recent books such as "No more ADHD" by Dr. Mary  
13 Ann Block, "Ritalin Nation: Rapid-Fire Culture and the  
14 Transformation of Human Consciousness", and Lawrence H.  
15 Diller's "Running on Ritalin: A Physician Reflects on  
16 Children Society and Performance in a Pill" have provided  
17 important viewpoints and information to the public debate on  
18 the dangers of the drugging of our children; and

19 WHEREAS, Public health issues such as lead poisoning,  
20 thyroid deficiencies, and malnutrition are known to decrease  
21 student academic performance; and

22 WHEREAS, Advances in medicine offer additional  
23 opportunities to identify and treat underlying physiological  
24 abnormalities and deficiencies that may contribute to  
25 decreases in student performances; such abnormalities and  
26 deficiencies have been shown to place students at risk of  
27 being identified as slow learners or behavioral problems; and

28 WHEREAS, The state of Connecticut has recently passed  
29 legislation prohibiting non-medical personnel from suggesting  
30 behavioral problems are the result of ADD or ADHD; and

1           WHEREAS, Public officials are frequently asked to provide  
2 policy guidance on this issue without a clear understanding  
3 of the medical and scientific issues attending the use of  
4 psychotropic drugs on our school children; therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we recognize the following recommendations of the National  
8 Foundation of Women Legislator's Special Education  
9 Sub-Committee, which include:

10           (1) A review by scientific, educational, and medical  
11 professionals of the physiological risk factors associated  
12 with decreases in academic performances and behavior;

13           (2) Recommendations on screening procedures to identify  
14 children at risk due to physiological abnormalities and  
15 deficiencies; and

16           (3) Recommendations of non-drug treatment options or  
17 model legislation to decrease the occurrence of these risk  
18 factors in our school-age population; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the Director of Public Health.